

NICODEMUS

A VISITOR BY NIGHT, A BELIEVER BY DAY



The Man Who Sought Jesus at Night

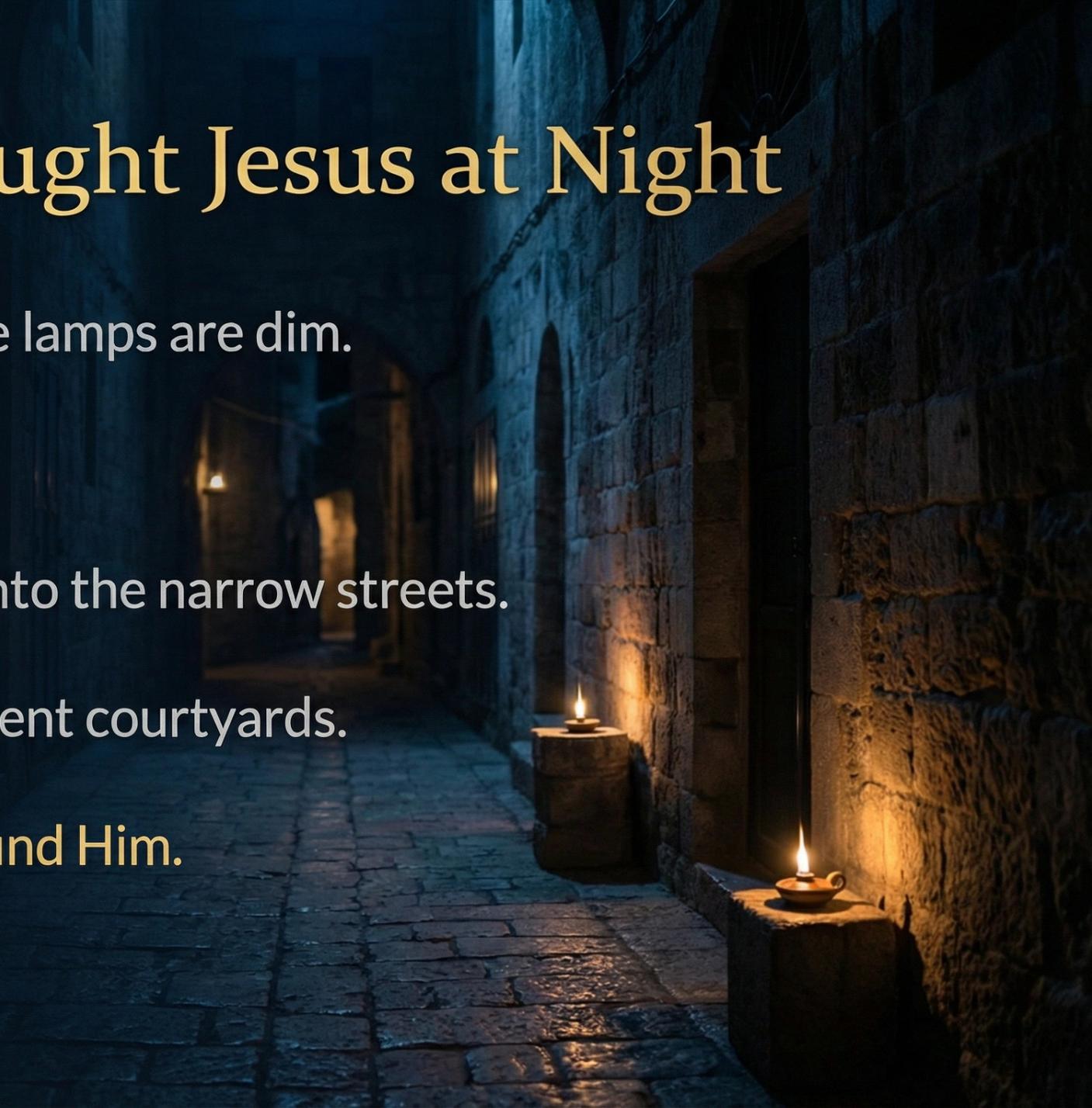
When the city is quiet. When the lamps are dim.

When most of Jerusalem sleeps.

He quietly slips from his house into the narrow streets.

Past shuttered windows. Past silent courtyards.

Toward the place where he will find Him.



A Ruler in the Shadows

A Pharisee. A ruler. A teacher in Israel.

Respected. Influential. Established.

And yet — he comes in darkness.

His reputation was currency.

To be seen speaking with Him openly
would invite suspicion.



He Begins in the Night

There is a man in the Gospel story who does not begin brave.

He does not begin bold.

He does not begin at the cross.

He begins in the night.

When Jerusalem is quiet. When lamps flicker low.

When reputation is protected by darkness.



NIGHT IS A SPIRITUAL CONDITION

- Not just a time reference.
- A place of quiet reflection.
- Questions we are not ready to voice publicly.
- Interested... but not yet committed.



Stage One: The Night Visitor (John 3)

Intellectual Belief vs. Public Commitment



**Rabbi, we know that
Thou art a teacher come
from God...**

He hears words that will
echo through history:

**“For God so loved the
world...”**

Calculating the Cost

A man with a beard, wearing a purple robe with gold trim, stands on a stone balcony at night. He is looking out over a city with many lit windows and buildings. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the city lights and a small light inside the balcony.

His reputation was
currency.

He chooses night —
because daylight
demands commitment.

Under the cover of
darkness, he seeks the
Light of the world.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLE

The Most Joyous Feast

Jesus stands on the last great day of the feast.

“If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.” (John 7:37)

The city is alive with **light, water ceremonies**, and celebration.

Jesus makes His **boldest** public claim yet.

“Of a truth this is the Prophet.” (John 7:40)



NEVER MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN

The Authority of His Words

Officers were sent to arrest Him.

They returned empty-handed.

“Why have ye not brought him?”

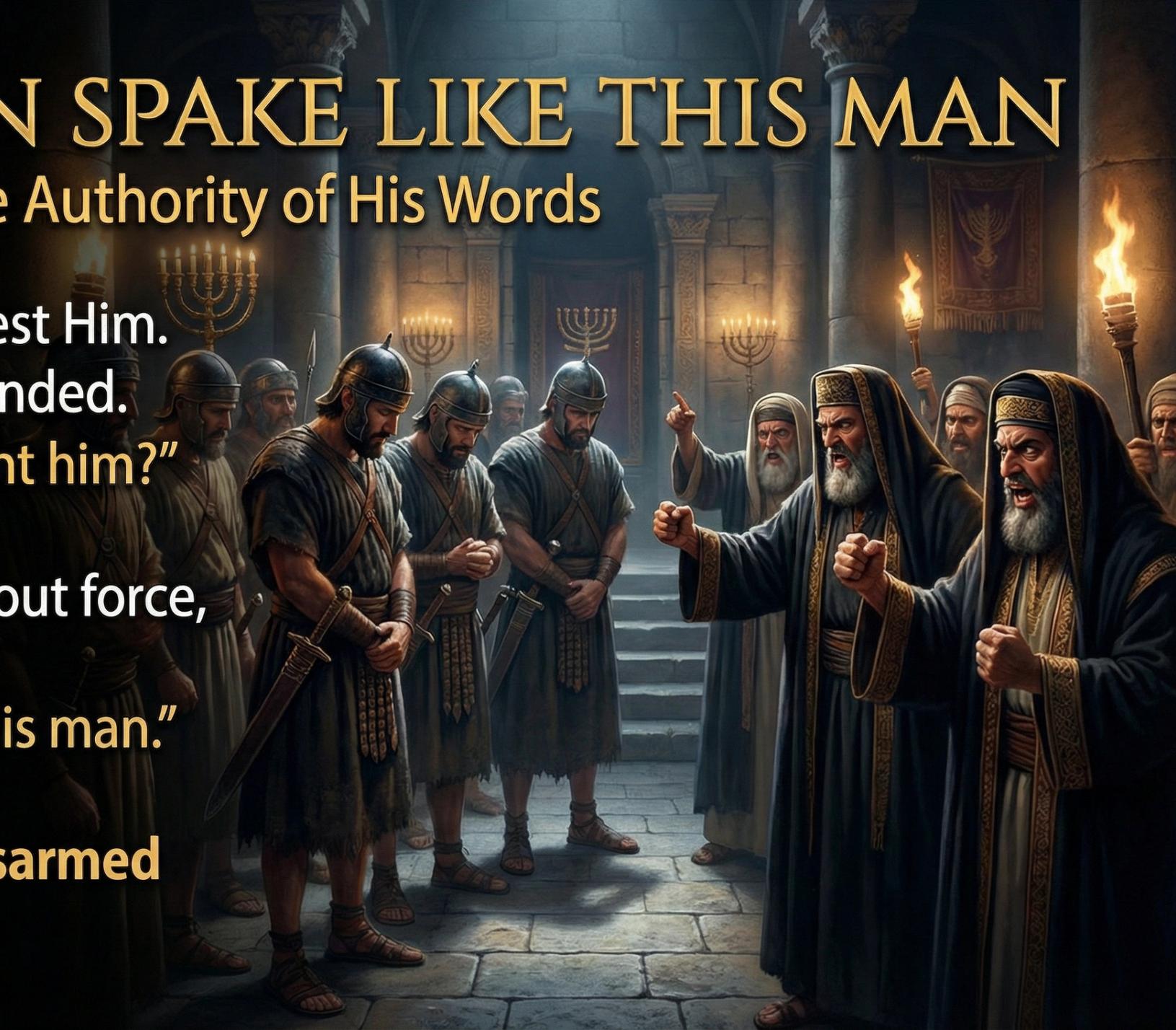
(John 7:45)

Their answer was not about force,
but authority:

“Never man spake like this man.”

(John 7:46)

Even the guards were **disarmed**
by His words.



ARE YE ALSO DECEIVED?

The Hostile Sanhedrin

“Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?” (John 7:48)

The Pharisees mock the common people as “cursed.”

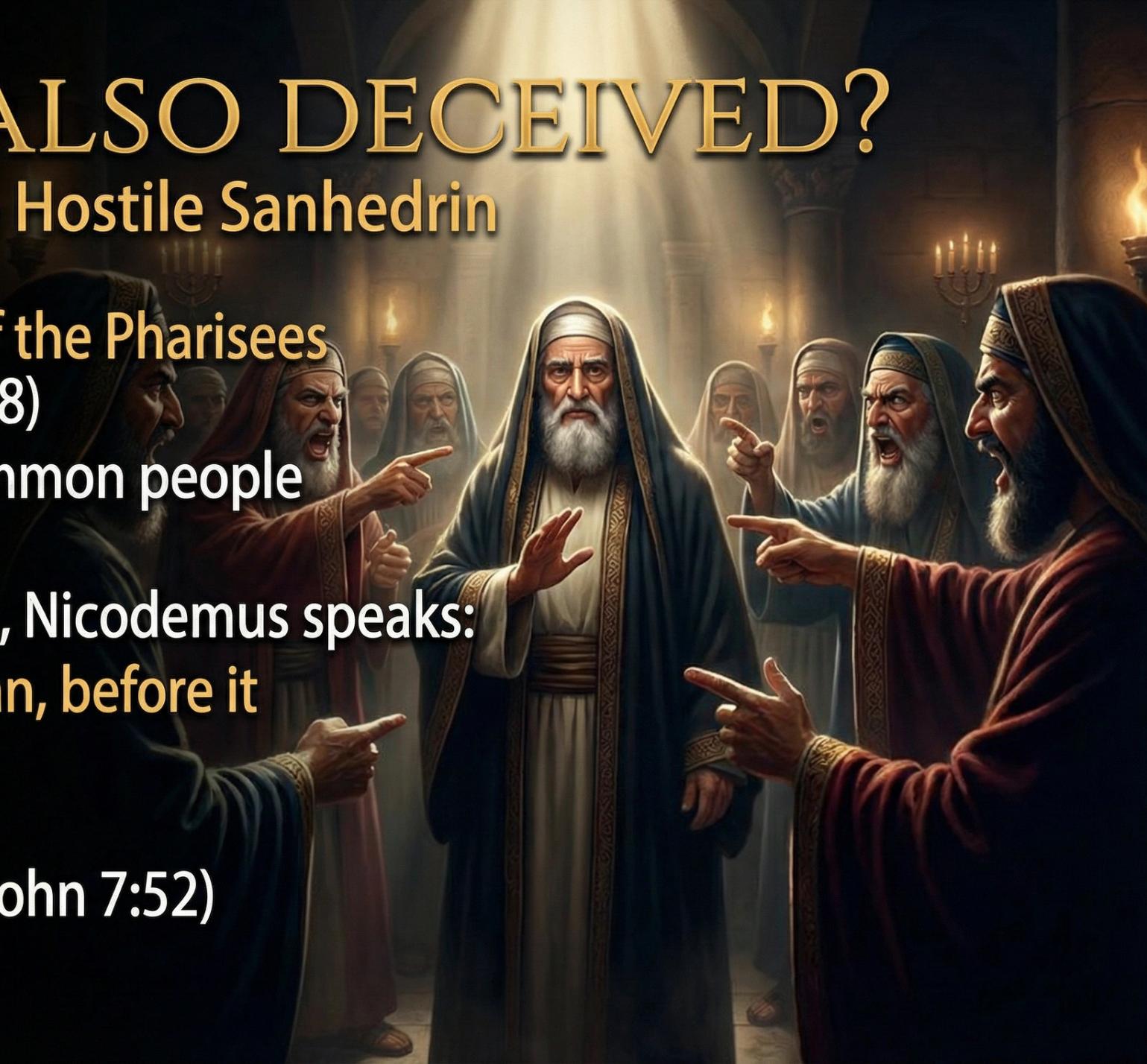
In THIS hostile environment, Nicodemus speaks:

“Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him?” (John 7:51)

Their mocking response:

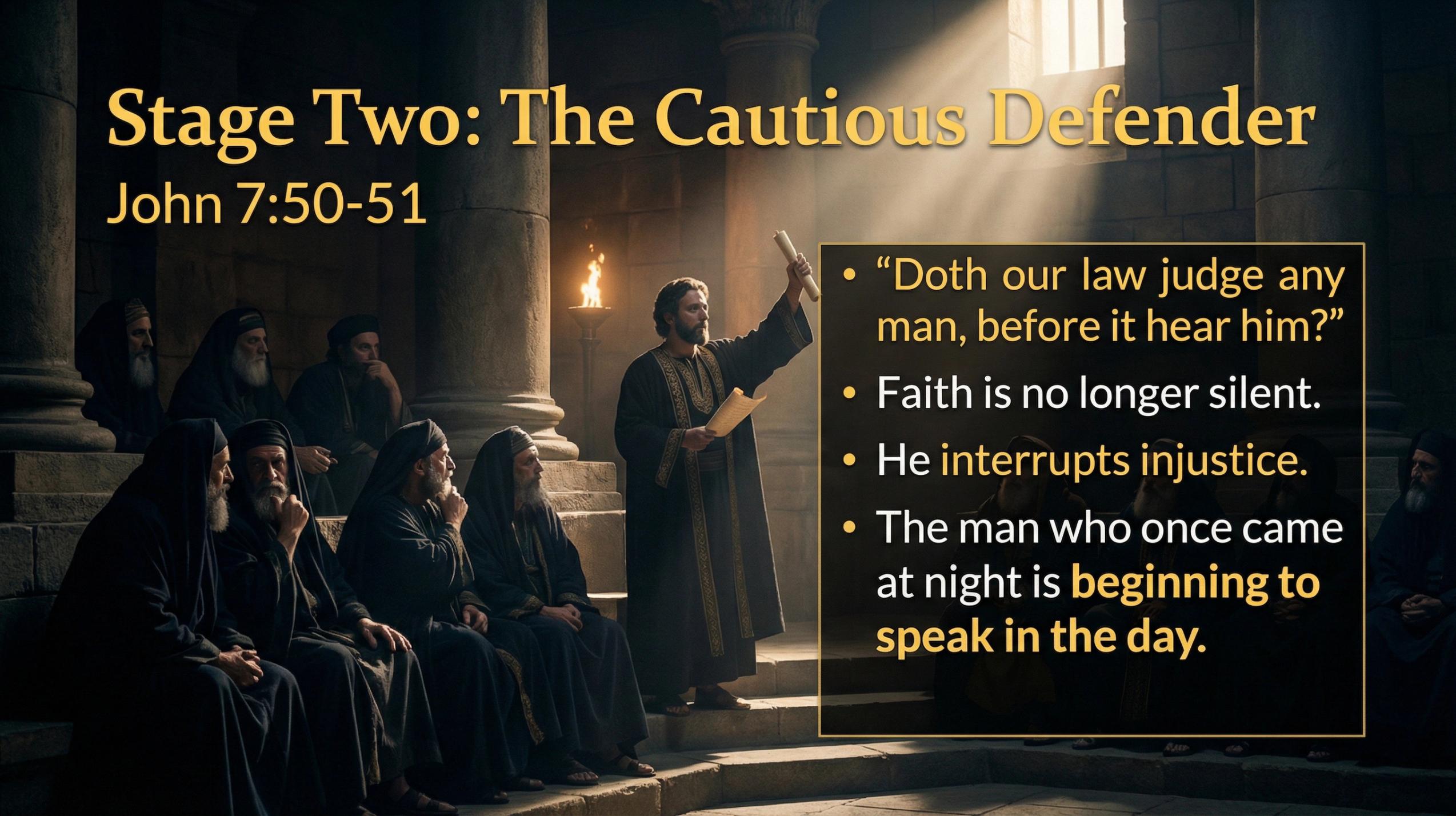
“Art thou also of Galilee?” (John 7:52)

Guilt by association.



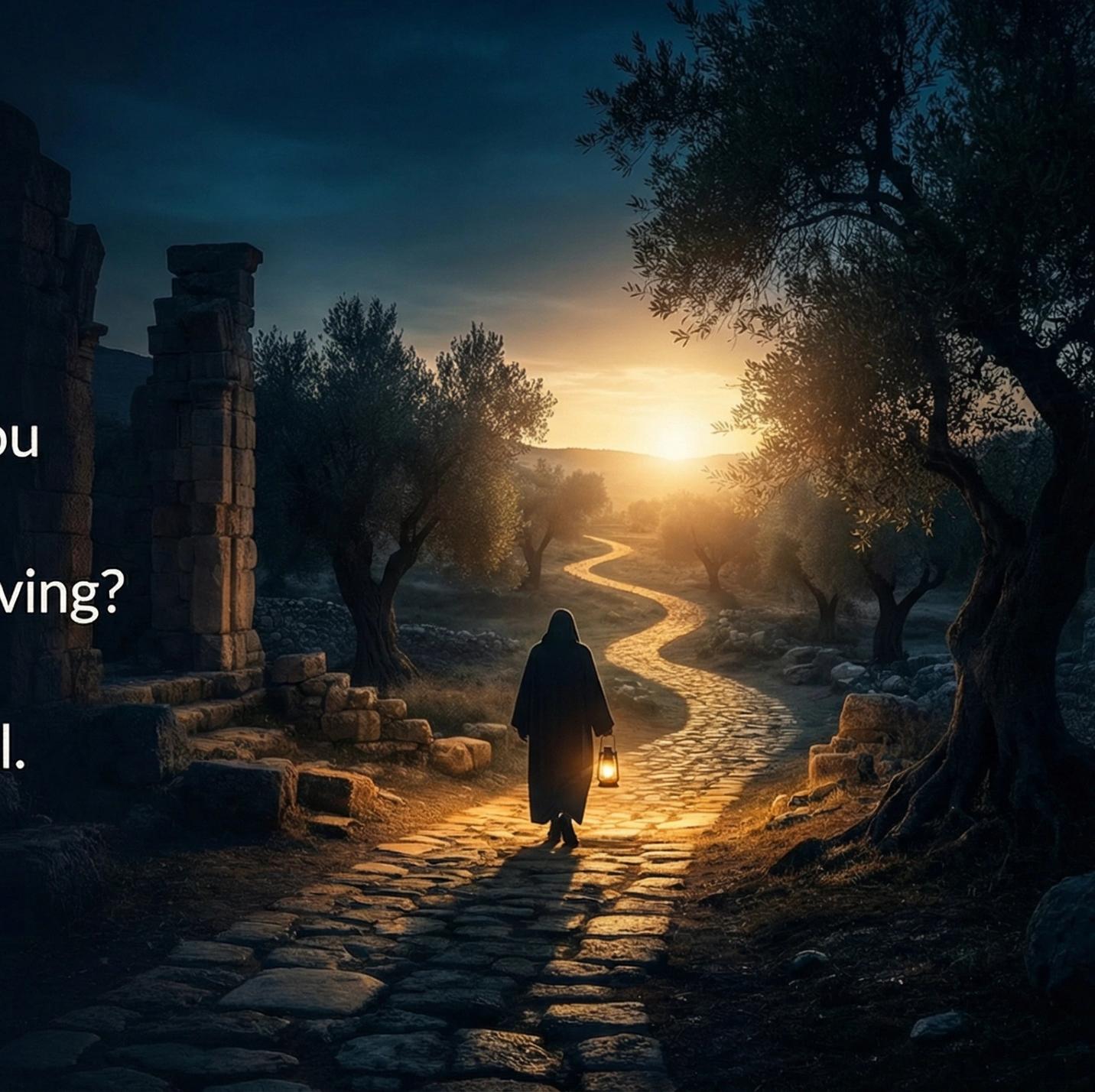
Stage Two: The Cautious Defender

John 7:50-51

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- “Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him?”
 - Faith is no longer silent.
 - He interrupts injustice.
 - The man who once came at night is **beginning to speak in the day.**

GROWTH IS DIRECTIONAL

- The question is not: Have you arrived?
- The question is: Are you moving?
- Spiritual growth is often not dramatic. But it is directional.



Stage Three: The Public Disciple (John 19)

Stepping into the Light

- Jesus is dead. Disciples have scattered.
- Public association now carries maximum cost.
- And who steps forward? Nicodemus.
- The night visitor appears at the execution site.



A ROYAL OFFERING

100 pounds of myrrh and aloes.

Not subtle. Royal.

Public devotion. Irreversible alignment.



IRREVERSIBLE ALIGNMENT

- He touches the crucified body.
- Risking ceremonial defilement.
- Risking reputation. Risking everything.
- The night visitor stands in daylight.



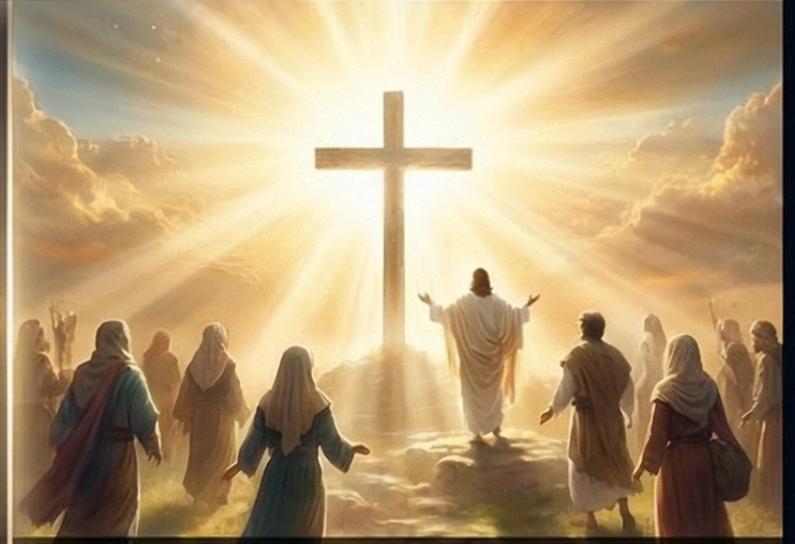
From Secrecy to Solidarity



From secrecy...



...to curiosity...



...to solidarity.

- The question is not where you began.
- The question is — are you moving toward the light?

Which One Are You?

A Question of Courage

John 3

Asking questions quietly, wrestling privately.

John 7

Cautiously defending truth in conversations.

John 19

Publicly identifying with Christ when it costs us something.

“Every believer passes through these stages.
But not every believer moves forward.”

WHEN YOUR MOMENT COMES

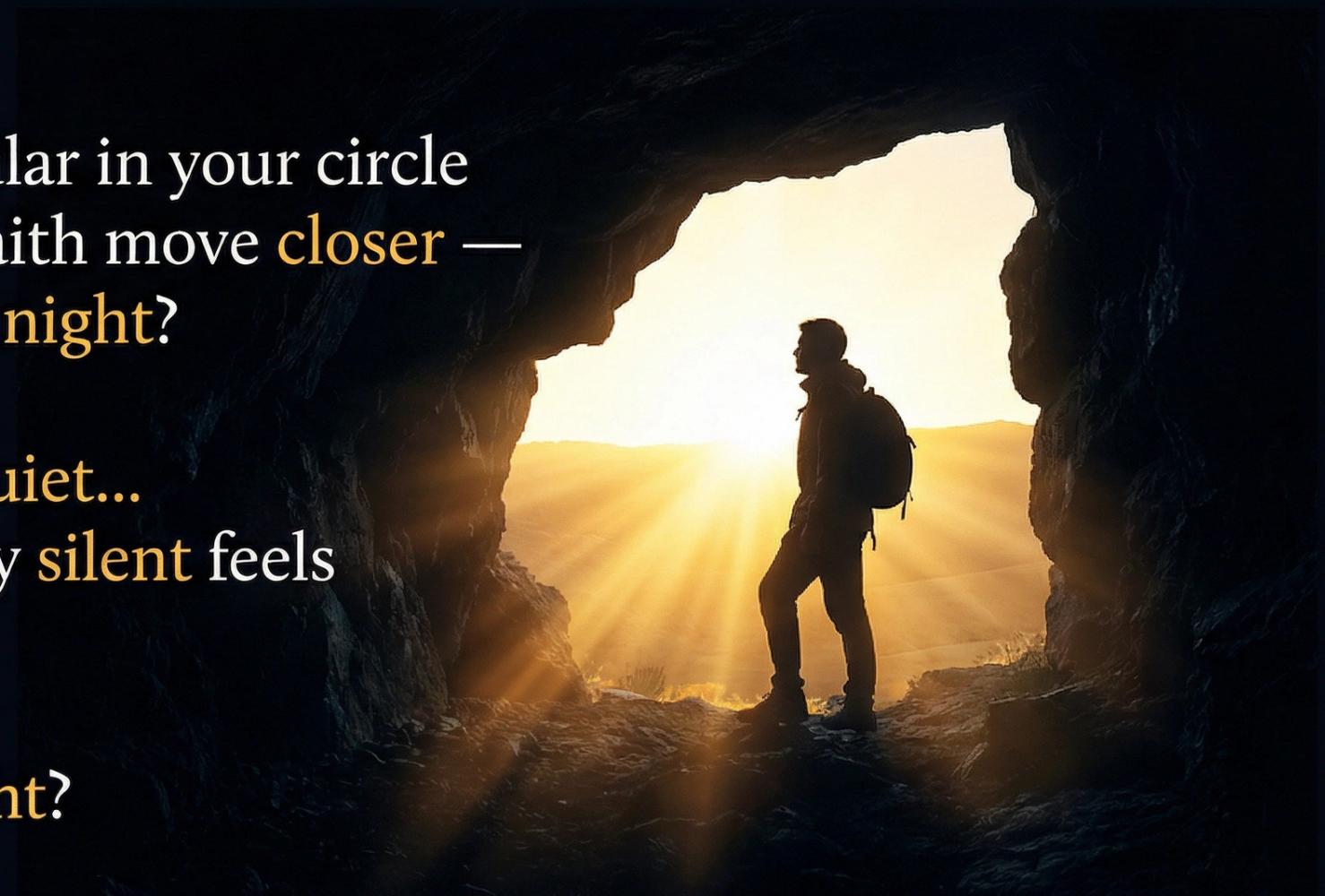
- When the room grows quiet...
- When the pressure to stay silent feels overwhelming...
- When your John 19 moment comes...
- Will you step into the light?



The Invitation of Lent

- If the cross were unpopular in your circle tomorrow, would your faith move **closer** —
—or retreat back into the **night**?
- When the room grows **quiet**...
when the pressure to stay **silent** feels
overwhelming...

Will you step into the **light**?

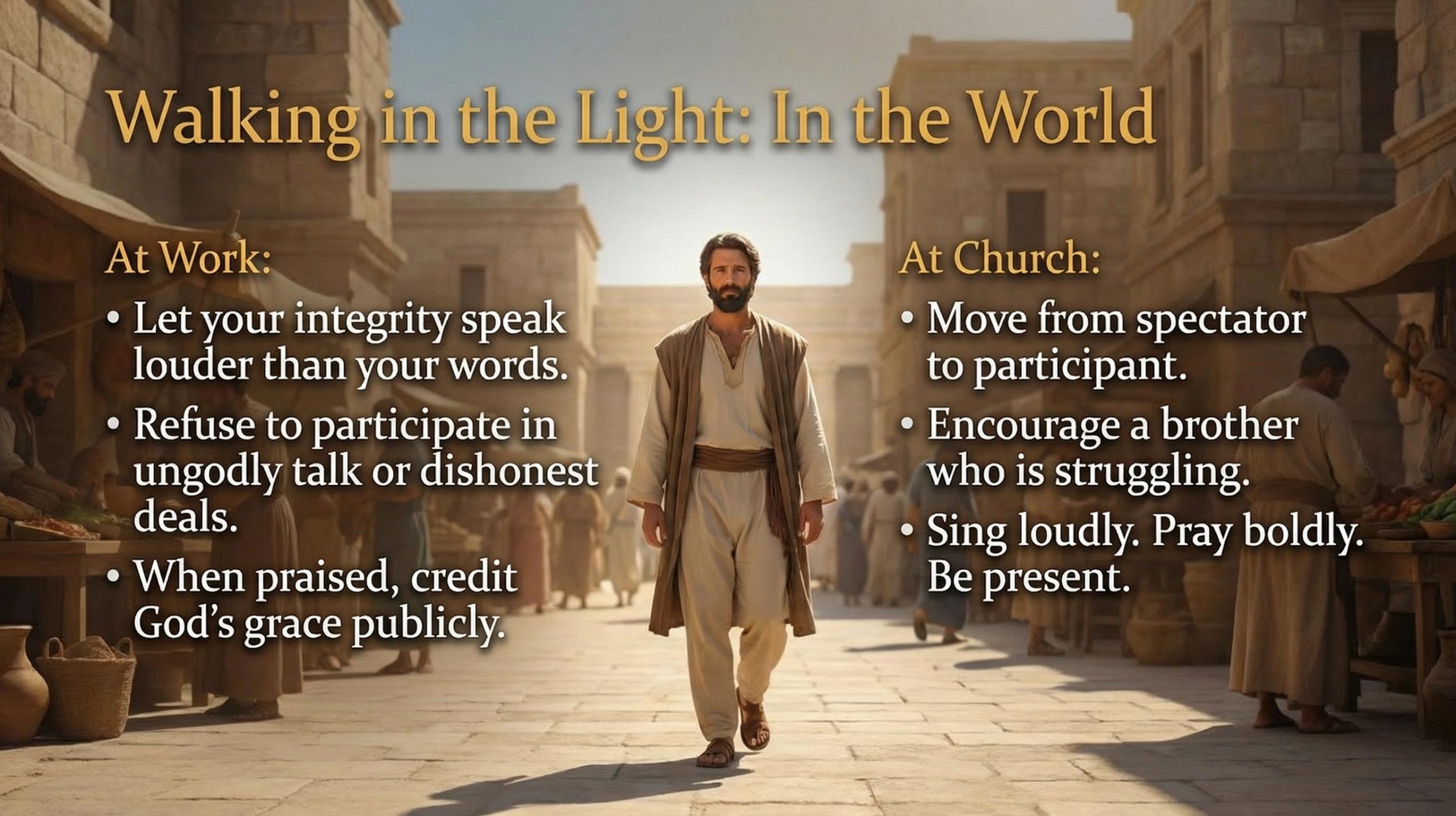


Walking in the Light: At Home

- Confession begins at your own table.
- **Lead prayer** before meals – not just a ritual, but with gratitude.
- Speak of God's work openly with your wife and children.
- Don't let your faith be a 'Sunday secret' to your family.
- Ask your children: '**Where did you see God today?**'



Walking in the Light: In the World



At Work:

- Let your integrity speak louder than your words.
- Refuse to participate in ungodly talk or dishonest deals.
- When praised, credit God's grace publicly.

At Church:

- Move from spectator to participant.
- Encourage a brother who is struggling.
- Sing loudly. Pray boldly. Be present.

Walking in the Light: When It Costs You



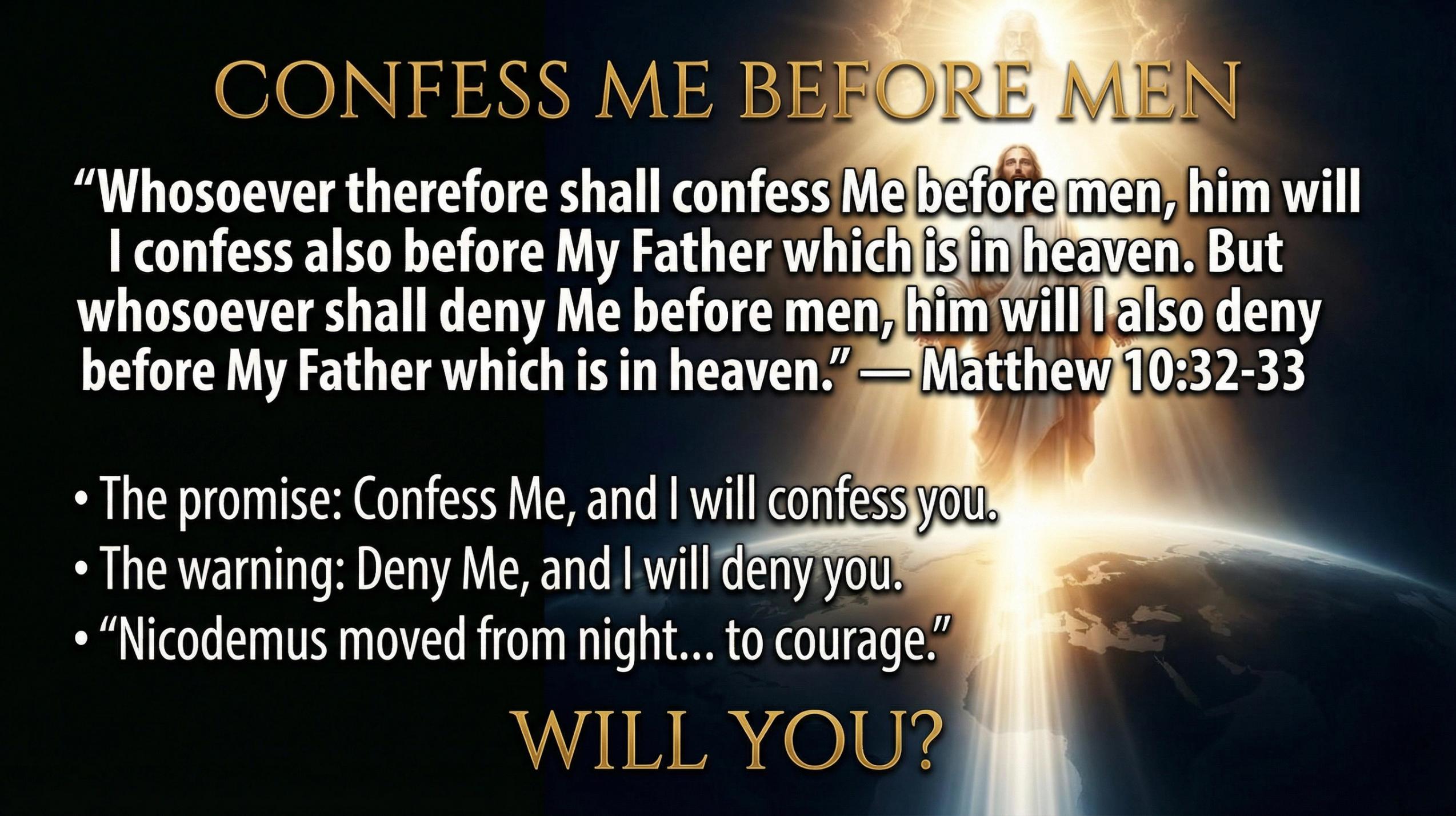
When the conversation turns against faith...

- Do not be silent. Silence is agreement.
- You don't need to win the argument. You just need to identify with Him.

When your circle mocks the things of God...

- A simple word — 'I believe' — changes the atmosphere.
- Nicodemus spoke up in the council. Will you speak up in yours?

CONFESS ME BEFORE MEN



“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.” — Matthew 10:32-33

- The promise: Confess Me, and I will confess you.
- The warning: Deny Me, and I will deny you.
- “Nicodemus moved from night... to courage.”

WILL YOU?